

The Times-Dispatch

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1908.

THE TORRENS SYSTEM.

We are gratified that the General Assembly is taking a lively interest in the Torrens Land Registry System. Virginians are a little slow to make experiments or to depart from the traditions, but we feel sure that if the owners of land generally understood the great advantage of this system there would be a popular demand for the passage of Senator McIlwaine's bill. It is to be observed, and the fact should be emphasized, that this bill does not require any man to register his land; it simply gives him the option of doing so. Therefore, those who do not care to take advantage of the proposed act should not, it seems to us, interfere with those who do. The only possible objection we can see to the bill is that it will impose, for the time being, some additional cost upon the State, but it will be insignificant, and in time, as the experience of other States shows, this system will be in fact a revenue producer.

It is not our purpose just here to go into details, for the question has been discussed so often that people should be familiar with it by this time, but it may be said in general terms that under this bill, if it should become a law, owners of land would have the privilege of clearing up their titles and having them registered and receiving a court certificate that the titles are good. Every caution will be taken to establish the title beyond dispute, but in order to provide against any possible contingency, a guarantee fund is created, and this will be used to indemnify any who may lose by the operation of the law. It may be stated just here, however, that in Australia, according to information received direct, out of nearly two million transactions there was only one case in dispute.

The advantage of the measure is that in a measure it converts dead capital into active and available capital. Under this system a man can use his land certificate almost exactly as he now uses his stocks and bonds, to borrow money at bank, and the transaction can be made without the "circumlocution" of law, and without publicity. If a certificate is bankable—and in the majority of cases such certificates would be bankable—the transaction at bank would be the same as in the case of stocks and bonds used as collateral.

Some wonder why it is that investors in these days prefer securities, which yield a low rate of interest to real estate, which yields a larger revenue according to the investment, but the reason is not hard to find. A man may use his stocks and bonds practically as so much money in hand, whereas his land assets are as so much dead capital. If he wants to borrow on his stocks and bonds, the transaction is perfectly simple and without publicity, and without fees, whereas in the case of landed loans he must go through with a tedious and expensive process of law and must make the transaction public.

Owners of land throughout the State would only come forward and secure the passage of the McIlwaine bill, they would find it to be a great convenience to themselves and they would find, in many instances, certainly, a decided increase in value of their realty. Many prominent citizens of Richmond, who have given the subject study, are thoroughly satisfied that it would be a splendid thing for Virginia to have such a law, and they will do all in their power to secure the passage of the bill. We wish that the newspapers of the State would all take this matter up and discuss it. Many of them have already done so, and so far as we can recall, not a single contemporary has shown any opposition to it.

The \$10,000,000 which John D. Rockefeller is said to have dropped in Wall Street recently may not necessitate a further advance in the price of kerosene, but it is more than probable that such effect will be noticeable.

THE TRUSTS AND THE PRESS.

There is apprehension on the part of some people lest the trusts by and by get possession of the public press and employ the newspapers of the United States in their own interest. But there is no reasonable ground for such apprehension, and we tell all apprehensive people to ally their fears. The trusts may buy up some of the newspapers or start up new papers, to be conducted in their interests, but it is one thing to print a paper and quite another thing to make the people take it. We do not believe that it is possible in this day for any newspaper, conducted in the interest of trusts or corporations of whatever character, to gain and retain a wide circulation. The people will not have such a paper. As soon as they find out that a newspaper is run for a selfish purpose they are sure to let it alone, and, moreover, there will surely be an opposition paper that will stand for truth and honesty and justice and the rights of the people.

The people may be fooled for a little while, but not for long. They have more sense than some autocrats give them credit for. They are very quick to discover an organ, and the day of the news-

paper organ is past. There may be, one of these days, a newspaper trust, although such a thing is inconceivable. The big newspapers in New York or Chicago, or in other large cities, may combine for purposes of economy and may conduct their business affairs along the lines of co-operation, or "community of interest," as it is called, just as various competing industries were brought together in harmony under the banner of the United States Steel Corporation. But these newspapers will not be conducted, if they are successful, in the interest of other trusts. They will be conducted, as the United States Steel Corporation and other such corporations are conducted, with a view to giving the best article at the lowest price. The men who manage these immense corporations understand well enough that in dealing with the general public they must make their goods popular. That is the only hope, and that is what keeps big corporations on their good behavior. They cannot defy the public, because the public are their customers.

Of course, there will be newspapers here and there with a leaning toward trusts, and they will try to get in their work, but such papers will not gain the popular ear, because they will not circulate among the people generally. The newspaper that hopes to succeed as a business proposition and that hopes to have influence with the people must be conducted upon very broad principles, upon the principle of right and justice and fairness, and must be absolutely unselfish in its advocacy of public measures. It must, first of all, give all the news and both sides of the news, fully and fairly, and in the discussion of public questions it must lay all selfish considerations aside and be honest. There is no fear that the great newspapers of this free land will become the organs of trusts, so long, at least, as the people of the United States maintain their character and their independence.

OPENING PARLIAMENT.

The ceremony of opening the British Parliament is still kept up in August style. Queen Victoria, by reason of advanced age, allowed the custom to fall somewhat into innocuous desuetude, but she must be excused, for there was no king to sit by her side. Albert was merely Prince Consort, a good man and husband, but an outsider so far as the throne was concerned. But in these days our friends across the water have a crowned king and crowned queen to come to Westminster on occasions—as yesterday.

Before the arrival of the royal party—in recollection of Guy Fawkes, we suppose—certain stout and well paid officials went through the mummery of examining the building to ascertain if any dynamiters or other murderers or assassins were lurking in any dark corner or cavernous recess. No such evil disposed person having been discovered, the two royal highnesses entered the Parliament House, assured of safety and with due pomp.

We hope good Queen Alexandra enjoys that sort of pageantry; she would hardly be a true woman if she didn't. Doubtless it affords her some compensation for the misery her lord made her endure in the time past when he was gay and he now is.

The King's "speech" from the throne yesterday was unimportant. Mention was made of the reference of the Venezuelan controversy to The Hague tribunal. Complaint was uttered that the European provinces of Turkey give cause for serious anxiety. The King has remonstrated with the Sultan, but it was not stated that that tyrant gave him any assurances of the needed reform. The progress of events in South Africa and in India was noted also, and in a cold-blooded, official way.

In short, the King had nothing new to tell, and he told it well, thereby highly gratifying his noble lords and faithful commonsensers.

Their highnesses, when before Parliament and going from and returning to Buckingham Palace, were everywhere received with marked evidences of public favor. They are both personally popular, and London, among other reasons, loves them for the shows they make in that city, their reign in that respect differing conspicuously from the latter years of good Queen Victoria's.

THE PUBLIC AND THE SCHOOLS.

The Fredericksburg Star says: We are glad to note that the Richmond Times-Dispatch has seen fit to inquire why Mr. Pollock was turned down in the Senate the other day. When a man is not confirmed for public office, it is always understood that he failed to come up to the moral or intellectual standard required for the place which he was appointed, but in this case we are informed that a lack of senatorial courtesy was the cause of his defeat.

It seems that Mr. Pollock was persona non grata with Senator St. Clair, and that notwithstanding the fact that the Board of Education, after careful consideration, unanimously selected him for the position.

The whole thing in a nutshell is just about this: Senator St. Clair advocated another person for the place, and when the Board of Education differed with him, he took the case to his brother Senators on the ground of senatorial courtesy and succeeded in overthrowing the action of the Board of Education. The real issue in the case, then, is, which shall have the right of way, fitness for office or senatorial courtesy?

We deeply regret that politics have again loomed up on the educational horizon. We had hoped that the people of this State had heard and seen the last of party politics in public school matters. Senator St. Clair says that his reason for objecting to the confirmation of Mr. Pollock was that the Board of Education treated him discourteously and deceived him. That is a matter between gentlemen and should be settled out of court. But Mr. Pollock should not be made to suffer for any personal misunderstanding between the Senator from Pulaski and the Board of Education. We understand, by the way, that at least two members of the Board deny that there was understanding that Senator St. Clair was to appear before that body and present the claims of Mr. Darst, Mr. Pollock's opponent. This, however, is a personal matter which does not concern the public. The question is this: Is Mr. Pollock a suitable man for the place? If so, the Board of Education did right to nominate him, and the Senate did wrong to reject the nomination. The action of

the Senate seems to us to be carrying "senatorial courtesy" entirely too far. The public school system is too sacred to be dragged into the arena of partisan strife. There is an awakened sentiment in Virginia in favor of popular education, and there is a demand that the merit system shall prevail in the appointment of school officials and teachers. But if such appointments are to be made by the rule of politics, either popular enthusiasm will be chilled or popular indignation will be aroused. Our opinion is that the general public will permit no trifling in this all-important matter. If any member of the Senate, or any member of the Board of Education or any other public official has any doubt on this point, let him feel the public pulse.

We print elsewhere a communication from the Rev. J. H. Light, of Lexington, in reply to the Rev. William M. Clark, of this city, and in further elucidation of Mr. Light's claim that certain public institutions of learning in Virginia are dominated by "the Episcopalians."

Mr. Light remarks incidentally that "when the editor of The Times-Dispatch examined the roster of the University he found one Methodist" among the professors. We did not "examine the roster" at all. We simply mentioned the fact that at least one of the oldest and most prominent professors was a leading Methodist, and another a leading Baptist. We do not know how the "roster stands," for we have never taken the trouble to inquire, so unimportant does the matter seem to The Times-Dispatch. All that we care to know is whether or not the professors are morally and intellectually qualified to teach. Mr. Light intimates that each denomination should have equal representation among the professors. We hope that such a question will never be considered by the Board of Visitors. It would be a sad day for the University should the question of denominationalism be dragged in. The idea of putting in four professors because they are Methodist, and four more because they are Baptists, and four more because they are Presbyterians, and four more because they are Jews, and four more because they are Episcopalians, and four more because they are Catholics—but the proposition reduces itself to an absurdity even before it has been fully stated.

Just to show to what absurd limits they can carry the civil service red tape, this case is interesting: Miss Irene Isabella MacArthur held a position in the money-order division of the general postoffice at New York. She got married to a Mr. McIntosh, who also held a clerkship in the same office. A rule had been adopted forbidding women clerks to marry on penalty of dismissal, and the bride was accordingly relieved of duty. She, however, was able to show that she had warrant from First Assistant Postmaster General Wynne that she should not lose her place because of her matrimonial venture. So her name was put back on the pay-rolls and she is again at work, but a new wrinkle has been discovered. She passed brilliantly the civil-service examination as Miss Irene Isabella MacArthur; but as Mrs. McIntosh she will have to take the examination over, so it is said. Such is red tape in the post-office and civil-service departments, but a better name for it is perhaps "tomfoolery."

Colonel Wallace F. Randolph, whom the President has nominated as brigadier-general and chief of artillery, is well known here and is, we suspect, related to the Virginia Randolphs. He entered the United States army during the "Civil War" as a private, but soon got a commission. He was once a prisoner in the Libby, but made good his escape. For a long time he was stationed at Fort Monroe. In the days when we used to have State fairs here in Richmond, Colonel Randolph quite often obliged us by acting as one of the judges in the drill contests that we were accustomed to have among the State Volunteers.

The fame of Dr. Crum, the Charleston negro who was appointed collector of the port by the President and then turned down by the Senate Committee, is spreading. Foreign journals are discussing him and his case. The Temps of Paris has been having a say in regard to the action of the committee which reported adversely on the nomination. This French paper thinks the committee's attitude indicates a "moral slump" in American treatment of the negro. "Moral slump" is good.

Miss Susan B. Anthony is not at all afraid of Senator-elect Smoot, and what she has said about him has surprised her friends no little. Her language has been distorted and she has been credited with saying much that she did not say. The fact is that she said very little, anyhow—simply this, and nothing more: "The women of this country who are getting up an agitation against Mr. Smoot are wasting their efforts. Trying to crush polygamy by taking action against an individual who does not practice it is small business."

The Norfolk Ledger corrects the statement that Dr. Curry and Judge Reagan were the last surviving members of the Confederate Congress. It says—and very truly—that the Hon. John Goode also survives.

Yes, and we are told that three members of the Kentucky delegation are also living, viz: Judge Theodore Burnett, of Louisville; Robert J. Breckinridge, of Danville, Ky.; and Colonel Thomas Johnston, of Mount Sterling, Ky.

"To the churches, hospitals, schools, etc., of Elkins, W. Va., ex-Senator Henry G. Davis has, first and last, made gifts of the value of \$32,000."

Mr. Davis is a brother of the late John B. Davis, who was a well-known banker and business man of Richmond, but whose place of residence was on the Mechanicsville Turnpike in Henrico county.

There is some little gubernatorial racing ahead of schedule time over in North Carolina, as well as in Virginia. Over there, as here, they are bringing out the racers for the Democratic nomination, and already the indications are that there will be a right lively scramble. Among those now being mentioned as probable

candidates are: Lieutenant-Governor Turner, Colonel John S. Cunningham, General Julius S. Carr, Cyrus B. Watson, and General Theo F. Davidson.

The one hundred and fifty passengers who waited at a way station in Georgia the other day while their engine went twenty-five miles back to get Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt were some of those same folks a former Vanderbilt referred to when he made the famous observation, "The public be—blowed," or words to that effect.

It is said that the action taken by Congress to increase the salaries of Federal judges was not suggested or advocated by a single judge on the bench. True, perhaps, but it would be a safe bet that some fellows who expect to be, or anyhow hope to be judges advocated and voted for the measure.

The good work of that much talked of St. Louis grand jury has not yet increased the arrivals at the Missouri penitentiary. Old "Law's Delays" is getting in his work.

Whatever else may have come out in the Campbell investigation, no one will deny that it was amply proven that the Amherst brand of prohibition does not prohibit.

Durham, Elizabeth City and Goldsboro are the lucky North Carolina towns that figure on the new appropriation bill for more work on their new Federal buildings.

The noble Jeems should behave itself now, and not go to putting on any of its fancy high water airs until this blizzard visitation suspends business.

Our friends over in North Carolina seem determined to settle the troublesome liquor question before the next general election, so as to have it out of the way of the parties.

The Chesterfield weather prophet has decided to retire from the predicting business. He thinks there have been peculiar changes in nature which make the weather "too onartin" for him.

The Virginia editors who shipped their overcoats and other wraps back home as soon as they reached Florida, wanted them returned by telegraph yesterday.

The multiplicity of "regulators" will save the trusts from being regulated, and right well the trusts know it.

A man named Hiss has declined the appointment as postmaster at Charlotte, N. C., and for that reason his friends doubt his loyalty to the Republican party.

King Edward can now sympathize with our Mr. Roosevelt. He has Parliament on his hands.

The figures indicate that the American people puffed up \$34,000,000 worth of cigars last year.

We do not know what Mr. Bowen expects to get for his work, but it is certain that he has earned a pretty big pile.

And are we not thankful that coal tumbled some before the blizzard came upon us?

With a Comment or Two.

The Virginia newspaper contingent, 125 strong, turned up in Florida Tuesday morning sober. We are thankful for that.

Henceforth, how you feel. Is it just occasion for surprise that the boys kept sober twelve hours when they were asleep in their berths most of the time? Reserve your gratitude for the home-returning event, should they turn up in Richmond some bright morning in an abnormal and comfortable state of sobriety.—Petersburg Index-Appex.

Some members of the advance guard are straggling in and they are in presentable condition.

Mr. John S. Wise predicts a serious race conflict. Mr. Wise is the lawyer who is trying to overthrow the Constitution of Virginia for the benefit of negro voters, and who is credited with having said that when the negroes quit collecting money with which to pay him, "Johnny will quit work."—Savannah News.

Never mind about Mr. Wise. More than two hundred years ago, and many times since, men in his condition have predicted another flood, the destruction of the world at certain early dates and various other direful things that might have come to pass had they kept out of the asylums.

Senator Hanna's bill to pension all negroes born in slavery will not be enacted into law, but it is enabling swindlers to reap rich harvests by collecting funds from the proposed beneficiaries for the alleged purpose of prosecuting their pension claims.—New Orleans States.

And yet it is impossible to get a negro to believe the warnings of Southern newspapers. A negro loves to be humbugged, and in that respect he is very much like a white man.

Now will President Roosevelt nominate another colored man to be collector of the port of Charleston?—Boston Globe.

That would just about fit his idea of strenuousness.

The Illinois Legislature is to struggle with a bill taxing bachelors of the State one-half of one per cent. of their income. If the proceeds to go in the pensions fund of the teachers of the State.—Exchange.

As we remarked the other day, all the freak legislation does not originate in this part of the country.

It is becoming more and more difficult to believe that Senator Hanna was not induced by political position when he introduced "his honored remedy" for the negro ex-slaves. Whenever meetings of negroes in the South are held, enthusiastic praises of Hanna are sounded, and his bill gets hearty endorsement.—Springfield Republican.

And this very thing is advertising the humbug to the detriment of the negroes, and for the benefit of the scamps who will use "by request" bill to swindle them out of fees for "pressing their claims."

Use Not Compulsory. An accomplished acrobat. He can jump out of the senatorial race, turn a couple of somersaults in the air and land right in it again.—Minneapolis Times.

Entirely Too Timorous. Having created The Hague (tribunal) Powers are as afraid of it as the old heathens were of the idols they made with their own hands.—Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

Grand of Thought
In Dixie Land

Mobile Register.

After a long season of sensationalism in Democratic party life, it is most reassuring to see a conservative and wise editor, as Mr. J. H. Light, appears to be, pushed to the front. It is a sign of the growth of a healthier sentiment in the party.

Macon Telegraph.

Within ten years there will not be a country on the earth on a silver basis. But silver will remain a very useful commodity in the subsidiary coin. It could be nothing else where large amounts of money are handled. It will go only as change.

Florida Times-Union.

The future of our negroes is inseparably bound up with the future of our country; and, whatever the solution of the so-called "race problem" may prove to be, the "brother in black" is likely to work it out here, upon the soil where he was born and bred, and upon which the roots of his race have taken a hold too strong by far to be so easily removed as some would have us believe.

Dallas News.

In the negro world, "paternalism" is not a blessing, but a curse, just as other races have done. From the old fallacy by which all races have been cursed, may the good Lord deliver the palaces as well as the red man and the black man.

Charleston News and Courier.

We must confess that we would have more faith in the sincerity and zeal of the Republican administration in its fierce struggle with the combines if it were not professing at the same time to be fighting the battles of freedom and independence in the Philippines.

Augusta Chronicle.

Amplified is being made of Norfolk employment agencies that ship negroes to the North where they meet with such cold receptions that they are soon reduced to starvation. We thought that it was the South that denied the negro a chance or a way to the North. The fact, however, was his best friend and but we confess we are somewhat confused.

Mr. Light to Mr. Clark.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—As your readers are most familiar with Rev. W. M. Clark's written statement in The Times-Dispatch of the 6th instant, I shall make no further reply, with such reference to additional matter in the Churchman as may seem worthy of notice.

Your readers will notice that I have not stated anywhere that "the Episcopal Church" in its organized capacity or by formal, official action of "its council" has exercised control over the State schools. The only place in which I mentioned the church as such is in the statement that it had no "institutions of higher learning" in the State; and in what was to me, and is yet, an entirely legitimate deduction from that fact, I did not offer any criticism. I think it quite natural that Episcopal parents should consider the University "their school," and that they should feel that the University should not incur any blame. I am familiar also with the historical basis underlying the present situation.

I did say that our State Institutions and schools have been "dominated" by the admittedly entirely disproportionate representation of that church in the management and faculties of those institutions, but I did not say that the State schools have been "dominated" by the church. I said that the church had a disproportionate representation of that church in the management and faculties of those institutions, but I did not say that the State schools have been "dominated" by the church. I said that the church had a disproportionate representation of that church in the management and faculties of those institutions, but I did not say that the State schools have been "dominated" by the church.

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Fine silver deserves a fine polish
GORHAM
SILVER POLISH
The finest polish in the world
Cleans as well as polishes
All responsible
jewellers keep it 25 cents a package

ever become famous for either. The samples offered are against it. I have not examined into the assym question. But I suspect that the same conditions, as to management and patronage, subsist in them as in the State schools.

I had no thought of reflecting on the great church that Mr. Clark represents. And the extreme sensitiveness of our brethren comes to me as a distinct surprise.

The "great stir-up" occasions in my mind of "breast-feeding" a professor, an innocent I feel like a traveler in a foreign country who has touched with unsuspecting hand an ancient fetish, or inadvertently wandered into some sacred enclosure where alone the priests of the ancients. No, my brethren, I mean no desecration. I would not breathe in the air the presence of your ancient traditions.

I was only looking for those many hundreds of Virginia Methodists who seem to me to be neglecting a great opportunity and a sacred duty.

And I candidly submit that those "hundreds" of so-called "progressive" gentlemen of the Methodist persuasion in Richmond and elsewhere would be more profitably engaged in considering the question whether their college falls in the category of "senior or third class" denominational colleges, and of devising means to make it first class, if it is not already so, than in attempting the altogether superfluous task of laying the "ghosts of persecution" that seem to haunt the sanctuary of the Churchman. Those ghosts are wholly imaginary, and may be easily dispelled. The needs of our college are very real and imperative.

Lexington, Va., February 18th.

An Hour With
Virginia Editors.

The Norfolk Ledger advocates the proposition of Congressman Maynard for an appropriation to commence the work of fortifying Cape Henry and adds:

The work of adequately fortifying the Cape will take time, and not an hour should be lost in making a beginning. These are the very public improvements which can better wait than can this one in which the whole country is interested, since it touches the preservation of the National Capital from possible attack and spoliation.

The Fredericksburg Star, discussing the rejection by the Senate of Mr. Pollard for School Superintendent of Schools for Pulaski county, says:

We deeply regret that politics have again loomed up on the educational horizon. We had hoped that the people of this State had heard and seen the last of party politics in public school matters.

The Petersburg Progress has this to say in regard to Mr. Bryan's recent emphatic declaration that he will not be a candidate:

Mr. Bryan has shown his sense by making it clear that he will not be a candidate. His appearance in the field would certainly entangle his friends no less than the party itself.

Some other candidate must be found whose views upon public matters are not quite so pronounced as Mr. Bryan's, and whose position in the party will make the uniting of the factions. Otherwise the Democratic party will stand a poor chance of success.

The Newport News Times-Herald says: It has been seriously suggested by the Richmond Times-Dispatch that Captain Wise was not mentally responsible when he made that speech. It surely is a wonderful declaration that slips from a man's tongue to a reduction in congressional representation, and it is surely an effort unworthy of Captain Wise and his record for being a man of intelligence.

Such an excuse as this will soon lose for him the last remnant of consideration the people of the South have for him.

Personal and General.

Mrs. C. C. Chaffee, who died at the age of 88 years at Springfield, Mass., on Tuesday, was formerly the owner of Dred Scott, the negro slave whose name is attached to one of the most famous decisions ever rendered by the United States Supreme Court. It was the decision in the Dred Scott case that practically annulled the Missouri Compromise.

The oldest man in the world is believed to have been discovered in a Russian hospital. There is documentary evidence going to prove that his age is 200 years. He is bed-ridden but mentally sane. The dispatch giving these details does not say whether the old man was or was not a constant user of snuff and tobacco during most of his life.

Though youthful in its vigor and enthusiasm, St. Louis is older than the Government of the United States. Its Government, as a city community, was born on February 15, 1764.

The "greatest living orator in France" is the verdict of foreign accords. The socialist in Paris, however, is a different matter. He is a parliamentary leader and vice-president of the Chamber of Deputies.

The late General Wade Hampton is to have a monument built to his memory in South Carolina, at a cost of \$30,000, \$20,000 being contributed from the State Treasury by a bill now passing the Legislature and \$10,000 raised by popular subscription.

Reports from Paris declare that Foxhall Keene of New York and Baroness Rothschild were voted among the best skaters at the recent opening of the skating season at the Cercle in Bois de Boulogne.

Minister Bowen's personal reputation has been made. It was a great opportunity for a comparatively unknown diplomatist to distinguish himself and he did it.

The women suffragists have also been beaten again in Kansas and Massachusetts. But they will keep on a-trying, just the same.

The Man
ABOUT
TOWN

DAILY CALENDAR—Feb. 18.
1902—Justice John assumed the throne
1903—Succeeded by Harry C. Glenn.